

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

At the request of Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lipscomb, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) staff has researched vehicle registration fees in select communities and states across the Country. Below is a list summarizing the results of that research, including a description of how the fee is calculated (where applicable), and any exemptions to the fee that may exist.

This is not a comprehensive list of all vehicle registration fees in the Country. Bolded are communities or states with a vehicle registration fee that is likely to be similar or higher for most residents than the fee proposed in the Executive's budget.

Boston: The City of Boston charges residents an annual motor vehicle excise tax of \$25 per \$1000 of vehicle value (vehicle value is determined by the State of Massachusetts). Certain people with disabilities and veterans are exempt, and must pay the tax upfront, and then fill out a form within three years of paying the tax to receive their payment back. In addition, the State of Massachusetts charges a \$30 annual vehicle registration fee. **This means that a new, \$30,000 vehicle would be charged \$705. The same vehicle would be charged \$105 when it is seven years old.**

Chicago: The City of Chicago has an \$87 annual fee for a passenger vehicle, but charges seniors \$31 a year and doesn't charge people with "approved disabilities" a vehicle fee. Chicago either charges the lower amount or does not charge the individual upfront, and therefore no refund system is needed. In addition, the State of Illinois has a \$101 annual vehicle registration fee. **Combined, most residents of Chicago pay \$188 per year per vehicle in registration fees.**

Dallas: The City of Dallas charges a \$10 per vehicle wheel tax, with an exemption for vehicles modified for use by people with orthopedic disabilities. The state of Texas has a \$52.75 annual registration fee. Combined, residents of Dallas pay \$62.75 per year per vehicle in registration fees.

Memphis: The City of Memphis charges a \$30 per vehicle wheel fee. Seniors or people with disabilities with an annual household income of \$25,000 or less are exempt, and have to fill out a "Wheel Tax Rebate" to provide proof of income and receive their rebate. In addition to the City of Memphis fee, the State of Tennessee charges \$24 annually per vehicle, for a total of \$54 annually per vehicle.

Minneapolis/St. Paul: Hennepin and Ramsey Counties charge a \$10 per vehicle wheel tax, with no exemptions. In addition, Minnesota charges a \$6 filing fee plus an amount based on the value of the vehicle. **A new, \$30,000 vehicle would be charged \$396. The same vehicle would be charged \$208 when it is seven years old.**

New York City: New York City charges a \$40 annual fee for a passenger vehicle, but not to disabled veterans. If a vehicle or individual is exempt, they fill out a form indicating their exemption at the DMV, and the tax is not collected during the annual registration process. In addition, New York State charges a vehicle registration fee that varies by weight, and is approximately \$50 for a typical midsize sedan. Combined, residents of New York City pay about \$90 per year per vehicle.

Portland: Multnomah County charges a \$19 annual vehicle registration fee, with no exemptions. In addition, the State of Oregon charges \$98 annually per vehicle, resulting in a combined cost of \$117 per year per vehicle

Providence: The City of Providence charges residents an annual motor vehicle excise tax of \$60 per \$1000 of vehicle value, but exempts the first \$2,000 of vehicle value as a method of lessening the impact of the tax on less expensive vehicles, and therefore on lower-income households. In addition, the State of Rhode Island charges an annual fee based on vehicle weight, resulting in a fee of \$45 on a typical midsize sedan. **This means that a new, \$30,000 vehicle would be charged \$1,725. The same vehicle would be charged \$716 when it is seven years old.**

Seattle: The City of Seattle charges a \$20 annual wheel tax. Veterans with disabilities are exempt, and fill out a form at the time of vehicle registration so that they do not have to pay the tax. In addition, Sound Transit charges a 0.3% annual vehicle registration fee based on vehicle value to support transit services in the Seattle area. Beyond that, the State of Washington levies additional fees totaling approximately \$49. **This means that a new, \$30,000 vehicle would be charged \$159. The same vehicle would be charged \$109 when it is seven years old.**

*California: Fees charged by local governments in California can vary widely, up to hundreds of dollars annually. In addition, California levies numerous fees on a statewide basis that are collected when vehicle registration is renewed, some of which are based on the value of the vehicle. Nearly every city or county in California has additional fees levied on top of these amounts. **A new, \$30,000 vehicle would be charged \$308 in State fees, plus up to hundreds of dollars in local fees. The same vehicle would be charged \$85 when it is seven years old, plus up to hundreds of dollars in local fees.**

*Colorado: Colorado vehicle registration fees vary by County, but appear to be generally higher than those in Wisconsin. Some of the fee collected is used by the State, but it is unclear how much. Fees in many counties vary by age or value of the vehicle. Using Larimer County (Fort Collins area) as an example, **a new, \$30,000 vehicle would be charged \$525. The same vehicle would be charged \$115 when it is seven years old.**

In addition to the combined local and State fees discussed previously, there are a few of states that charge a statewide Vehicle Registration Fee similar or higher than the total fee proposed for City of Milwaukee residents under the 2017 proposed budget (\$155).

Arizona: The State of Arizona charges \$8.00 plus \$2.80 per \$100 of the assessed value of a vehicle purchased new or \$8.00 plus \$2.89 per \$100 of the assessed value of a vehicle purchased used. The assessed value is determined to be 60% of the MSRP, reduced by 16.25% each year after the vehicle is first registered. **This means that a new, \$30,000 vehicle would be charged \$512. The same vehicle would be charged \$188 when it is seven years old.**

Iowa: The State of Iowa charges \$0.40 per hundred pounds of vehicle weight, plus 1.00% of MSRP. **A new, mid-sized sedan would be charged \$313. The same vehicle would be charged \$313 when it is seven years old.**

Montana: Fees are based on the age of the vehicle. **A new vehicle is charged \$217, and a 7 year old vehicle is charged \$87.**

North Dakota: Fees vary based on weight and age of the vehicle, and **vary between \$274 and \$49.** Commission staff were unable to determine exact numbers for a hypothetical new and seven year old vehicle.

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